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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	
	:	
AVA M. ROBINSON, R.N.	:	
License # 26NO09704100	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Ava M. Robinson ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about May 1, 2013, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2013," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2013. Respondent answered "yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

3. On March 11, 2014, the Board sent a letter of inquiry to Respondent's mailing address in Maplewood, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail, requesting certain documents, including proof of having completed the required continuing education.

4. Respondent provided a response to the letter of inquiry, including proof of completion of the following continuing education:

15 hours completed within the 6/1/09 - 5/31/11 biennial period;

26 hours completed within the 6/1/11 - 5/31/13 biennial period; and

1 hour completed within the 6/1/13 - 5/31/15 biennial period.

5. On or about April 10, 2015, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked

whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2015," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2015. Respondent answered "yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing

education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

#### DISCUSSION

A Provisional Order of Discipline (POD) was filed on June 4, 2015 based upon continuing education violations. The POD sought a reprimand, \$250 civil penalty, and suspension of Ms. Robinson's license until she demonstrated that she was up to date with her continuing education responsibilities.

Ms. Robinson responded to the POD by providing documentation of completion of the following continuing education credits:

45 hours within the 6/1/09 - 5/31/11 biennial period, of which she can carry over 15 excess hours to the next biennial period, giving her

41 hours within the 6/1/11 - 5/31/13 biennial period, of which she can carry over 11 excess hours to the next biennial period, giving her

25 hours within the 6/1/13 - 5/31/15 biennial period; and

18 hours within the 6/1/15 - 5/31/17 biennial period.

The Board determined that Ms. Robinson may apply 5 of the hours recently completed to cure the deficiency of the 6/1/13 - 5/31/15 biennial period and avoid suspension on that basis. The Board also determined that Ms. Robinson has failed to demonstrate timely completion of 30 hours of required continuing

education within the 6/1/13 - 5/31/15 biennial period and the \$250 civil penalty is therefore warranted. Similarly, the reprimand is warranted for Ms. Robinson's false answer on the renewal application whereby she certified that she had timely completed the required 30 credits of continuing education and has been unable to demonstrate that she did so within the time period required.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2016,  
ORDERED that:

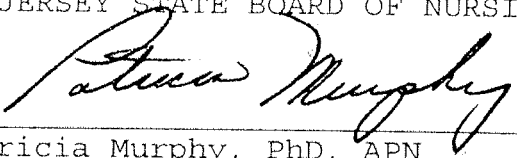
1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for falsifying the continuing education information on her license renewal application.

2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250), for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to Leslie Burgos, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of this **Final**

Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President